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No flies in Iowa this summer

NED DISQUE, Assistant Extension Editor, Iowa

■ Iowa didn't swat flies this summer. Citizens of that State eliminated flies with DDT and destroyed their breeding places in an all-out organized campaign.

Nearly all of the State's 99 counties participated in the work under the direction of county extension directors. Cities and towns in particular organized thoroughly along lines suggested in a test campaign conducted in the city of Ames and five other towns in the State last year.

"The amazing thing about this program is that it really worked," reported I. W. Lackore, secretary of the Ames Chamber of Commerce, at the conclusion of the 1946 fly season. "We achieved nearly 100 percent control of flies, both in business sections and residential areas."

"Householders who cooperated reported the fly swatter was never needed; that they saw only one to six flies in the house during the entire summer. It was really an event if a fly was seen."

The Ames fly-control campaign was a city-wide affair carried on by the public safety and welfare committee of the Ames Chamber of Commerce. The committee met with Dr. Harold Gunderson, of the Extension Service of Iowa State College, to learn proper procedure in fighting the fly and to get an estimate of the cost of the work.

After adopting a budget to cover a complete program of fly, roach, and rodent control, the committee solicited funds.

The plan of operation called for spraying all food-handling establishments once on the interior with a 5-percent solution of DDT xylene emulsion.

Exteriors, alleys, garbage cans, doorways were sprayed every 2 weeks with a 2½-percent wettable powder solution.

Equipment included a power sprayer similar to those used for spraying trees, and small, 3-gallon, hand-operated sprayers.

The Chamber of Commerce carried out a complete spray program in business sections only. Advertisements were run in newspapers and handbills distributed to householders asking for their cooperation. Materials were available at dealers.

When the cost of the campaign was figured it was found that the expense of a fly-free city for the first year was \$688. This included \$472.25 for material, \$151.21 for labor, and \$64.54 for equipment. After deducting the cost of the material on hand, it was figured

that the net cost to the city was \$400. Ames made ready at once to start a 1947 fly-control campaign.

State-wide plans this year were complete in every detail. The State Department of Public Health cooperated with the Extension Service in the work.

First local meetings for organization purposes were held in March and April. The ground work was laid in the elimination of fly-breeding spots.

During the week of May 5-9 district spray schools were conducted at nine different cities scattered through the State. Extension personnel were on hand to show how to mix and how to apply DDT.

Scores of commercial spray outfits operated through Iowa towns and on Iowa farms this summer. Individual spray operators numbered in the hundreds.

Other Iowa towns were convinced that if Ames could enjoy freedom from flies, they could, too.

Gone from Idaho, too

■ One of the first States to put on a State-wide fly-eradication campaign was Idaho, and its success has been a pilot light for other States now taking steps to rid themselves of a bothersome pest and a health hazard. Dr. W. E. Shull, former extension entomologist, conceived the idea back in 1944 and obtained such outstanding results with DDT tests that a State-wide control campaign was organized in 1945. The control work is still going in 1947 for the third year with even more enthusiasm.

Last year a committee of five extension workers organized and planned the campaign. School superintend-

ents, grange masters, county and State public health service officials, civic organizations in towns, and other leading citizens cooperated. Two hundred and thirty demonstrations ranging from 1 to 13 per county showed how the work was done. Custom spray operators attended these demonstrations and then went out and did likewise.

"This has been the most outstanding extension program we have ever attempted, and I see no reason why it could not be just as successful in other localities," reports Mr. H. C. Manis, present extension entomologist.

Keeping pace with the present

FRANCES CLINTON, Assistant State Home Demonstration Leader, Oregon

■ Farm home rural life committees have planned for the future in Oregon through war and peace. Back in 1936, groups of 15 to 20 representative men and women were organized in each county to give consideration to problems directly related to homemaking, family life, and opportunities for youth. In the early conferences, feeding and clothing the family received first attention. Today family relationships, advantages for youth, health of the family, world affairs, and community services (libraries, churches, schools) are foremost in committee deliberations.

Last year 15 Oregon counties held long-time planning conferences, and 15 additional county committees are now doing the preliminary work. They realized that 5 years of war had materially changed the world outlook for markets, that research in such fields as production methods, pest control, and cropping had progressed 25 years in a few months and that family living standards were changing overnight.

Laying the Plans Well

The county committee met first to determine the best time to hold a conference. Subcommittees were chosen to cover all phases of agriculture and homemaking, and each was asked to prepare a statement of recommendations—a 5- to 10-year guide for people living in the county.

For example, the committee on family living and community service recommendation held their initial meeting with between 15 and 35 men and women there to discuss the "needs" of the county as they saw them—needs which if met would improve home and community life. Recreation for youth was a "need" felt in all counties—to help overcome juvenile delinquency and to give an outlet for youthful energy. Coos County thought an all-year swimming pool would help. This is more than a 1-year project and more than an extension project. This committee is the motivation group for enlisting the

aid of organizations concerned with the welfare of youth.

At the close of an afternoon of discussion the subcommittee divided into interest groups to collect data, prepare a rough draft of recommendations, and be ready to report on a set date about 2 weeks later. In some counties the rough draft was prepared at the second meeting where committee members lived far apart and it was difficult for them to get together. Interest groups included such subjects as housing, health, water supply, and sewage disposal, youth programs, and community services.

Agent Serves as Secretary

The extension agent served as secretary and assembled into one report all the recommendations made. This report was thoroughly analyzed at the final meeting of the subcommittee. After all corrections were made, the chairman prepared the report for presentation at the county conference which was an open meeting attended by both urban and rural people. This meeting was given wide publicity. Industry and organizations interested sent representatives to participate in the discussions. High lights of the report were printed in the local papers, and the entire report was made available to anyone who could use it.

This same report is used as the basis for home demonstration program planning. Landscaping of the farm plant was recommended by 15 counties last year and is getting under way in 13 counties. Agricultural leaders, 4-H Club leaders, and home extension unit members are taking part. In some counties the county extension agents are trained to give demonstrations, whereas in other counties district meetings give an opportunity for everyone to see the demonstrations by the specialist. This year the work is on foundation plantings, whereas next year planting, pruning, and use of native shrubs will be discussed and demonstrated. In a few years, contests and tours will be part of the program.

A complete program reaches the young people, too. The 4-H Club program is considered on Home Demonstration Program Planning Day. In all counties the home demonstration agent assists with the program, sometimes spending 50 percent of her time on the youth program.

Counties not yet employing the services of an extension agent may also plan to accomplish the recommendations made at the long-time planning conference. Frequently, one of the first goals is to obtain a home demonstration agent for the county. This is especially true since the war-time emergency program made the women aware of the possibilities of such a service.

Real benefits have resulted in Oregon from this method of long-time planning by rural men and women—planning executed by these same men and women year by year to meet immediate situations.

Develops from Bottom Up

The method is democratic. It minimizes direction from the "top" and encourages the participation of local people in planning and carrying out their own program. It is a program "of the people, by the people, for the people."

It develops understanding among people of the community. Working together in analyzing facts about themselves, their neighbors, community and county, they begin to realize that home and community life are interdependent—that the standard of living set by the family influences the type of community in which they live—that community services will be given families in direct proportion to the work they do toward getting such services.

In a central Oregon county, where men and women were deeply concerned about their health facilities, there was no doctor, no nurse, and no hospital. From the county seat it was 45 miles to the nearest doctor, and from out in the country, it was nearly 60 miles. During the year, 1,000 new families moved into the county. At the time of the committee meeting an epidemic of scarlet fever had broken out. Of course, people were concerned. Recommendations were made for the county to establish, through cooperative action, a suitable clinic

building, prepare homes, and invite a good doctor, a dentist, and a nurse to come to the county. Less than 1 year later the doctor and a nurse are at work, and an ambulance has been purchased so that the hospital in the town 45 miles away may be used until a hospital can be built in their own county.

In the counties holding conferences last year the committee met again this year to review the recommendations, list those Extension can help with, and those that need the cooperation of other agencies.

This method of planning is practical. The needs of the people are indicated in the immediate situation. These needs are the ones fulfilled as the program goes into action. Such planning also highlights the outlook giving a basis for evaluating future programs economically and educationally.

The conferences focus the attention of extension workers on the local problems of the people. It gives a chance for the people to sit down together with us and to discuss freely and frankly their situation. We ar-

rive at a common understanding of their needs.

In all the planning last year, and this year too, there is apparent the trend for rural people to be more community minded and world conscious. They are thinking beyond the "gadgets" of life, realizing that it is important to be well fed, well clothed, and well housed, but that this is not the end of life nor the goal for which we strive. Our leaders are taking a broader view. We need to help rural people adapt their plans to themselves not adapt themselves to any plan.

Try an action picture

Third in a series of practical tips for amateur photographers by George W. Ackerman, chief photographer, Extension Service, U. S. D. A.

■ Action pictures are much in demand. Candid shots sometimes fill the bill, but often they are marred by blurring or unsightly backgrounds. Posed shots tend to be static. Here are a few compromise ideas:

These snappy marchers in the picture below practiced stepping it off around the yard until they per-

fectured their action and lost their self-consciousness. I selected a spot with a good background for the picture, set up, and waited for just the right moment. I have had good luck with such practiced action shots on many varieties of farms and home activities, as well as with 4-H Club members. The actors usually enjoy the practice

period, and I get the pictures. Such a picture requires plenty of time.

Two devices I often use to indicate action are putting both hands to work and having at least one of the subjects bend deeply at the waist toward his work. These young folks are using both hands, and the girl at the left bends toward her work. The eyes centered on one point also give a feeling of suspended action. In the familiar pantry picture, if the woman carries jars in one arm and reaches for another with the other hand, a little more life is added.



Farm folks advise on State program

E. F. GRAFF, District Extension Supervisor, Iowa

The use of a State advisory committee of farm men and women was recently recommended by a national committee. Iowa has been using one for 4 years with the results reported here.

Last March 6 and 7, a group of men and women shuttled from committee room to conference table in Memorial Union on the Iowa State College campus. Their job—to draft an educational program from which Hawkeye farmers could reap the greatest benefit in 1948.

Part of the group—known officially as the Extension Service Program Board—was made up of members of the extension administration staff. Others were representatives of the supervisory, specialist, and field agent staffs.

But 18 of the men and women were folks from Iowa farms. Designated as the State Advisory Committee, their function is to help weave the farm viewpoint into extension-program plans and keep them geared to farm needs.

This system of using rural Iowans in mapping out effective extension programs is now in its fourth year. On the basis of 3 previous years of trial, extension officials are enthusiastic over the arrangement and look on it as both a highly workable and profitable venture.

The farm men and women who represent their neighbors on the committee aren't exactly new at the job. All have served on the program development committees in their own counties. Their original nominations were made by the extension field agents on the basis of their county leadership. Final selection of the nominees was made by the director of the Extension Service.

Each of the State's nine Farm Bureau districts is represented by a farm man and woman. Each serves for 2 years. But memberships are staggered so that only half the group is new each year.

Initial spade work for the year's planning is carried out at a series of district program development conferences. These get-togethers were at-

tended in 1947 by 356 county program development committee members and the field agents. Objective is to determine the problems most worthy of attention among the farm group and to develop procedures for carrying them out.

Thus seasoned, the State Advisory Committee members move on to the



Farm men and women of the Iowa Advisory Committee of the Extension Program Board are shown in final conference with extension staff members at Iowa State College in March.

State Program Board meeting. There they are divided into three subcommittees. One studies the specific problems of production and marketing. Another concerns itself with family living and youth programs, and the third outlines needed work in community development and public problems.

Each subcommittee then reports to a meeting of the entire board, discussing the issues in light of these questions:

- (1) What activities now in the program should receive more attention?
- (2) What activities should be added?
- (3) What should the program include for beginning farm families?
- (4) What are some of the over-all objectives for the year ahead?

The recommendations resulting from this discussion are then used by the extension specialists in planning their work for the program year ahead. County committees do likewise. This year, for instance, soil conservation, livestock disease control, and an improvement of present marketing facilities are among the tasks earmarked for increased attention from the standpoint of farm operation. Important for farm family living, in the eyes of committee members, are increased emphasis on better buymanship, improvement, and modernization of the farm home and more attention to family health. In the field of community development and public problems, the committee

stressed the importance of bringing farm families into closer touch with national and international problems and developing more effective farm leadership. The role of farm youth in achieving all objectives was given renewed emphasis.

With these, and other tasks thus outlined, the program board staged a second meeting in July. Then members reviewed specialists' plans and gave further attention to more effective ways and means of reaching objectives for the program year which begins October 1.

The Iowa Extension Service, which always has followed closely some system of planning in cooperation with farm people, favors the use of the advisory committee over anything yet tried.

Pattern of human relationships gives clue to successful leaders

PAUL A. MILLER, Graduate Assistant, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Michigan State College

The author received his master's degree in sociology and anthropology last year and is now working for his Ph. D. It was his experiences as a county agent that started him off in this field and make him now want to pass on some of his findings to other agents. He was assistant county agent in Ritchie County, 1939-41, county agent in Nicholas County, W. Va., 1941-42, and in the United States Army, 1942-45.

■ The background story of Hallers Corners, a Livingston County, Mich., open country neighborhood, really began about 1941 in Nicholas County, W. Va. At that time I was employed in the latter county as county agricultural agent. Just like every extension worker during this initiatory period I began to bring to focus certain intellectual questions relative to the Nicholas County extension program.

Why Are Results Unpredictable?

Why is it that the responses of rural groups are so often unpredictable? Is it oversimplification to place the shortcomings of a program on faulty local leadership or "that they are too busy to come to the meetings"? Do we take too much for granted about the operation of rural groups? It was such questions as these that culminated in my enrollment in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Michigan State College.

To what extent may a former extension worker define the human relationships of farm people in a neighborhood with which he is completely unfamiliar; and when he has no extension or otherwise promotional objectives in mind? Some such question as this was passing through my mind as I drove into Hallers Corners to spend a few days with the farm folk in that neighborhood.

Hallers Corners radiates from the crossroads of the same name. It consists of some 30 families, occupies 4 square miles of territory, and is geographically centered by a small, neat, and well-kept church. This tiny church is the only formal institutional

group in the neighborhood. There are no economic institutions in the neighborhood. Three families are associated with the local soil conservation district, one of which is the chairman of the district administrative group. No formal extension activities are carried on in the neighborhood.

"In your opinion, who are the individuals and families in this neighborhood that have become the leaders and have been accepted as such by the folks in the neighborhood?" This question concluded an interview with the family head, or his wife, of each family in the neighborhood.

During the course of the interviews it became evident that the matter of belonging to the local church presented a sharp issue for discussion. This was true of both old residents and the newcomers. In general, church families indicated that the neighborhood was adequate in its supply of advantages; whereas nonchurch families were more critical of the desirability of life in the neighborhood.

Eight families were closely identified with the church. Seven families were moderately identified, and 16 were not affiliated. Families which were closely identified with the local church differ from the other families in that they were relatively older in age, have resided longer in the neighborhood, and maintained smaller farming operations.

Each To His Own

Closely affiliated church families in Hallers Corners selected families of their own group as leaders. Nonaffiliated or moderately affiliated families selected leaders within their own

group. Such results indicated that two distinct networks of human relationships existed in the neighborhood.

Each network appeared to have its own informal leaders. Families A, B, and C were the leaders of the non-church group. (Family D is outside the neighborhood.) Family E was indicated most frequently as the leader of the closely affiliated church families. The leaders of the nonchurch group were apparently more concerned with economic and production programs. Family E, a leader among the youth of the church, was largely interested in the more esthetic programs.

Reckon With All Groups

It would be well for the extension worker to recognize the informal leaders of the two networks; likewise, the economic and esthetic differences of the leaders. This does not mean that they be necessarily placed in an official capacity but that they be reckoned with in the planning of a particular program that would include this neighborhood.

The two networks of relationships should be pulled together in an extension program. The use of Family B as a key family might accomplish this. This family is well selected as a leader; it is young, active, and because of its age composition should be interested in all phases of rural promotional work. Also, Family B is moderately affiliated with the local church.

The Pattern Is There

The important concept from this glance at Hallers Corners is that underneath the quite average surface of the neighborhood exists a specific system of human relationships. This system is unique in its own right.

John T. Stone, present county agricultural agent in Livingston County, has embarked on an ambitious program to study major portions of the county in the manner described above. His interest is perhaps remarkable in that it is not confined to the study of only segmented portions of rural life but to human relationships involved in a particular social system. These facts, he feels, will furnish a sound basis for planning.

No member is over 35

■ You can't join the South-Forty Club if you are more than 35 years of age. That age limit is one of the novel features that has contributed to the success of this unusual Oregon organization for young farmers.

The club is a Union County group, formed in 1935 to provide interest in continued training expressed by former 4-H Club boys. It meets twice monthly and carries on an active program for agricultural improvement. Its emphasis upon educational programs automatically attracts young men who have a serious interest in progressive agriculture. As a result, its roster represents a constantly growing influence in the agricultural activities of the community. At one meeting, a check of 28 of the club's 81 members revealed that they held membership in 30 different local, State, and national organizations—civic as well as agricultural—and that they held 19 officer positions in these organizations.

Included in the group were the chairman of the agricultural committee of the LaGrande Chamber of

Commerce, the president of the Union County Farm Bureau, the first vice president of the State Farm Bureau Federation, the president of the county livestock association, the chairman of the county agricultural planning committee, a councilman of the Grange, and elders of two churches.

All of the members are engaged in farming or occupations directly connected with farming (another requirement of the club bylaws). In the group of 28 mentioned previously, 11 were farming on a father-son or father-in-law and son partnership basis, and 8 were in business for themselves—owning some land and renting the remainder. The others were renters, owner-operators, or private operators of various types.

The 10 aims for the club are a part of the constitution and bylaws. They include keeping up with new developments in agriculture, both scientific and economic; becoming familiar with details of any national agricultural program which may be in operation; developing the feeding of livestock in

Union County; and studying the marketing problem with special emphasis on cooperative marketing.

President of the club is Dale Standley who operates J Bar S Ranch with his father, L. E. Standley. The ranch includes 600 acres of cropland and 3,000 acres of range. A principal enterprise is a herd of 50 purebred Herefords, but the ranch produces a wide variety of other items including 300 acres of wheat, 80 acres of grass for seed, considerable alfalfa hay, and barley and oats for feed. There are a few dairy cows and 2 poultry units with 300 birds in each. A particularly interesting feature of the Standley ranch is a well-equipped farm shop with a welding outfit that has contributed to the construction and repair of much of the equipment on the place. Dale even built a power mower with it a few years ago, using a cut-down auto chassis and assorted mower parts.

4-H Champion Continues His Successes

A director of the club is Clayton Fox, Imbler, who won a place in the Nation's 4-H Club hall of fame in 1936 when he was awarded the Moses leadership trophy. Clayton today operates a highly diversified farm with his father, Clay W. Fox. On 360 acres, this father-son combination produces apples, sheep, dairy products, grass seed, wheat, barley, and oats. Newest enterprise is a herd of 10 purebred Herefords. Every animal on the farm is purebred and registered, including the 110 head of Hampshire sheep and the Holstein cattle—both developed from Clayton's 4-H Club projects.

The group has several flying farmers, including Francis Wade, Dick Fuller, and Glenn McKenzie. Wade uses his light plane frequently in his large-scale farming operations, for he grows 1,000 acres of dry peas and must often make trips to Spokane and other points for machinery repairs and supplies. Wade is a member of the Elgin Flying Club and has taken an active part in laying out and developing an airport at the edge of the town. He also is a member of the newly organized Oregon Flying Farmers' Association.

Founder of the club was H. G. Avery, former county agent, who now is su-



Meeting of 20-40 farmers in Lakeview, Oreg. This club was patterned after the South-Forty Club in Union County and numbers may veterans among the members.



Francis Wade (right), of the South-Forty Club, tells County Agent Roland Schaad, of Union County, some of the advantages of a plane when you are growing garden pea seed on a large scale.

perintendent of the Union Branch Experiment Station. The present county agent, Roland Schaad, and his assistant, Burns Bailey, are honorary members.

Perhaps the greatest tribute to the soundness of the idea on which the South-Forty Club is based is the fact that two other clubs frankly patterned after it have been organized

in other Oregon counties. Lake County now has such a young farmers' organization, called the 20-40 Farmers, the membership of which is heavily weighted with returned veterans who want to refresh their knowledge of agriculture and catch up with the new developments of the war years. Yamhill County recently set up a similar organization.

School plantings boost morale

■ Convinced that attractive surroundings do boost morale, Dr. Ray G. Wallick, superintendent of schools at Yeadon, Delaware County, Pa., points to ornamental plantings which, within 1 year, have "changed the attitude of people all around."

These plantings, resulting from a chance suggestion, were put in just a year ago. Dr. Wallick had called in his county agent, Harry O. Wilcox of Media, to prescribe for some ailing shrubs on his high-school lawn. This done, another problem occurred to him—how to dress up the grounds in front of his junior high-school building, the Bell Avenue School.

Together, they went over the grounds which here and there had some trees, but without a plan. A plan, the county agent decided, was needed as much as anything else; and he called on A. O. Rasmussen, Pennsylvania extension specialist in orna-

mental horticulture, for a recommendation. Soon afterward this was ready and shortly was carried out almost to the letter. The total cost was \$1,694—just \$6 under the \$1,700 estimate submitted by Professor Rasmussen.

Plantings included yew, holly, thorn, azalea, barberry, spirea, dogwood, cornelian cherry, privet, ivy, forsythia, spurge, winter creeper, fragrant viburnum, and winged euonymus. Off to a good start last year, they promise, says Dr. Wallick, to set off the school grounds even better as the new growth develops and flowering gets started. Accepting the improvement with an enthusiasm matching the civic pride shown in the project by parents and patrons, school pupils vigilantly protect the transformed grounds.

Dr. Wallick gives the good will generated by the improved lawn credit

for adding impetus to a \$250,000 school bond issue to which Yeadon voters gave overwhelming approval last November. This included \$50,000 for the Bell Avenue School, most of it for additional improvement to grounds, this time to athletic fields in the rear. This work will provide tennis and basketball courts, football field, baseball diamond, and a cinder track.

Robert C. Yake, junior high principal, confirms Dr. Wallick on the respect shown by pupils toward the ornamentals and new lawn seedings which have enhanced the appearance of their schools. Pupils and public, he reports, share a feeling of responsibility for protecting their school grounds, reflecting the civic pride plainly evident in this Philadelphia suburb of fine homes and friendly neighbors.

Not only have the new plantings given the people of the Yeadon community a more substantial feeling toward their school but also realization that the familiar adage of "see your county agent" can apply in town as well as in country when the problem is one in the broad field of agriculture. "We learned something," Dr. Wallick relates, in reference to solution of his agricultural problems, another of which, the reseeding of the hard-used high school athletic field has since been put up to Mr. Wilcox.

What do home agents want?

A questionnaire designed to find out what home demonstration agents wanted in the way of further training was undertaken by the professional advancement committee of the National Association of Home Demonstration Agents. Thirty States replied that the majority of home demonstration agents were interested in further training; 22 recommended short leave for this purpose, and 19 wanted sabbatical leave. The subject in which the agents felt the greatest need for further training was, first, family relations. Almost as popular were radio and publicity. These three received by far the greatest number of votes. Visiting and observing the work in other States interested practically all of the agents.

Farm home gets safety treatment

■ Have you ever gone through a broken step? . . . Has the splintery path through somebody's back porch been your exit line? . . . Did you ever forget and make the wrong approach to a farmhouse, guarded too zealously by Rover or others of his ilk?

"Brother," in the words of the illustrious Senator Claghorn, "It's no joke!"

And it's no joke to county extension agents either who themselves face daily these and a lot of other hazards to life and limb. Frequently extension workers have been congratulated on the fine leadership given in co-operation with the National Safety Campaign. But in some instances, at least, they have been better theorists than they have been practitioners!

For in a partial report, given early this year to Director M. L. Wilson by the Bureau of Employees Compensation of the Federal Security Agency, extension workers throughout the country lost 354 days from work because of injuries. These injuries cost in medical care and loss of pay \$3,372. And there were quite probably many more injuries not reported to the Bureau.

The Shoemaker's Case Again

Maybe it's just the case of the shoemaker all over again—so busy with other people's footwear that he has no time for his own!

Whatever the reason, their record over last year in helping other people avoid accidents justifies a little absentmindedness as to their own welfare.

According to reports of county workers, 532,731 families in 1,973 counties were helped in removing fire and accident hazards around their homes and farms in 1945.

Home demonstration club members throughout the Nation have been especially active in safety work. Their achievements have varied from having furrows plowed to protect the home from grass fires to the making of

medicine cabinets completely equipped and with contents labeled. In between these two extremes are such things as putting nonskid mats under throw rugs to take the "throw" out of them; cleaning up the rubbish from back yards and woodlands; installing spark arresters to protect the roof; cleaning out flues and chimneys to prevent accumulated soot from catching fire; getting laundry tubs anchored firmly to prevent overtopping by small hands.

But priority has been given by all home demonstration club members to their educational work in persuading homemakers generally to adopt safe fire building practices. They realize from the many county surveys of home accident causes that it is this practice which looms high—both in number of fatalities and near deaths and in cost of residences destroyed.

It Can Happen To Me

How many times have home demonstration agents listened to the sad accounts—"I just didn't think it could happen to me. I've built fires that way so many times."—All stories based on the same refrain—hurry to get dinner started . . . kerosene poured over hot coals and ashes . . . an ignited match. Details that spell tragedy in any language.

"If we can just teach this lesson well," one home demonstration safety leader commented, "we will be thankful."

But porch floors ready to give way and rickety doorsteps are almost as great a hazard, and the injuries to limb and life caused by them are serious. So home improvements along these lines are a part of every better homes endeavor.

One of the most effective teaching methods has been the production of safety plays by local groups of adults or 4-H members. Those of the National Safety Council bear such intriguing titles as "Jenny Turns the Tables," "The Strong Soul," "First Things First," "Stop, Look, and Live."

Several States have issued their own safety plays. Two put out by the Extension Service of Illinois are based on the actual findings of the engineering department. These are called "This May Happen to You" and "Watch Out, Brother." The former has quite ingenious characters as the three Injury Brothers named Minor, Permanent, and Fatal, and the Hazard Klan—Carelessness, Fatigue, Haste, Take-a-Chance, and Inexperience.

Perhaps the way Gladys Kendall, home demonstration agent in Volusia County, Fla., tells of the safety work undertaken by the home demonstration clubs of her county would be typical of many other counties.

Says she, "We emphasize safety not as a single project but as a part of all our programs. For instance, in our work in good housekeeping and general clean-up, all families are urged to dispose of fire and accident hazards, to provide simple and necessary equipment and first-aid supplies at home, and to have a place for everything and everything in its place."

Last year, each of the 25 home demonstration clubs in Volusia County reported carrying out safety work with more than 250 women, checking their homes for safety hazards, and making such corrections as were needed.

Young Folks Remove Hazards

Safety work is also emphasized in all 4-H Club work in Florida. Recently the State Extension Service in Florida has put out an excellent publication called "Farm Home Safety Program for Florida 4-H Members."

Throughout the month of November in Autauga County, Ala., 4-H boys and girls held joint meetings devoted to safety in the home. A part of their program was a play given by the members themselves on home hazards. The home demonstration agent, Georgia Hill, showed each group how to make a medicine cabinet equipped with supplies well labeled.

Another agent in the same State, Lillian Cox, of Henry County, also devoted the month of November to safety programs, both in 4-H and in adult work. Miss Cox reports the following achievement:

"Four hundred and fifty-eight families using information on preventing home accidents; 756 reported that they had removed fire hazards; 571 reported using safety-first methods; and 31 4-H girls reported installing first-aid boxes in their homes."

Women Accomplish Much

Arkansas Home Demonstration Council has a State safety chairman, Mrs. H. B. Chambliss, of Jefferson County. This rural woman takes much pride in there being a county safety chairman in each county in the State and in the achievements they have helped to bring about. The fire department at Forrest City, Ark., furnished a fire hazard quiz, "Is Your Home Safe from Fire," to all home demonstration members. Copies were distributed in October and asked to be returned. This quiz reached 26 neighborhoods and 1,205 farm homes.

Every home demonstration club member in Logan County, Ark., was shown how to make a well-built ladder stool during National Safety Week, wrote Marcelle Phillips, home demonstration agent.

The concise story told by Beulah Layman, 4-H Club member from Avery's Creek Club in Buncombe County, N. C., illustrates the way 4-H Club members everywhere have become conscious of safety hazards. (One part of the 4-H program, like that of the adult group, is to survey present dangers.)

"In my survey," Beulah pointed out, "the first thing I discovered was an old safety razor blade on the window sill. I picked it up and buried it. A cut could cause lockjaw. Next, I saw a sharp knife low enough for the children to reach. This could cause a bad cut or even an eye jabbed out if a child got it and fell. I moved it. Just a little later I found some wet soap on the floor. I picked it up and put it back in the soap dish. Wet soap left on the floor can cause a serious or even fatal fall. Then I discovered a lighted lamp placed near an open window with curtains blowing toward it. This could have burned down the house."

Little things—yes—but they can add up to something big.

Home demonstration agents generally feel that their safety work with 4-H Clubs is one of the most import-

ant helps they give these youngsters. They are conscious that accidents take a yearly toll of 20,000 young people under the age of 20 and that most of these deaths are preventable. They know, too, that actually, according to authorities, accidents take as many lives in the 1- to 14-year-old group as pneumonia, diarrhea, and enteritis, measles, diphtheria, meningitis, polio-

myelitis, whooping cough, and scarlet fever combined.

In general, all extension safety programs, whether they are adult or youth, follow the "three keys to accident prevention"—

1. Recognize the hazard.
2. Remove the hazard.
3. Use caution when hazards cannot be entirely removed.

Large enough to be seen

With soil productivity balance an important part of the Missouri Balanced Farming Program, O. T. Coleman, extension soils specialist there, long has wanted some vivid way of showing farm audiences the effects of different crops, crop use practices, soil treatments, and soil conserving measures on the soil's productivity.

Finally, this past winter, he began working on a balance large enough to be seen by audiences and yet accurate enough so that by adding weights to the positive (+) and the negative (—) sides of the balance there would be presented a more understandable picture to the listener. After much sandpapering, painting, weighing, and adjusting, he now has a scale-like balance which he uses in many of his talks. He has found that it helps him present a subject that is rather difficult to explain.



He starts out by telling that soil balance is affected by cropping and management factors, how much being shown in the Missouri Balanced Farming Handbook, a copy of which he holds in his hand. He recites some of these factors and then shows how a common Missouri 2-year crop rotation of corn and small grains affects the soil fertility.

The cornstalks are left on field; the whole small grain crop is removed with a binder or mower, and the fertilizer added amounts to about 325 pounds of average commercial material per acre. To represent the effects of the corn, he puts a weight of 1 and another of 0.35 on the minus side and then hooks on another 1 for the small-grain depletion effect. For the fertilizer, he puts on a 0.25 weight on the plus side. However, the whole corn-oats rotation, with the 325 pounds of fertilizer per acre, results in a loss of approximately 2.1 percent in soil productivity for the 2 years. He points out that this figure does not include erosion. Usually, someone asks what would be the effect of erosion; and he has weights to show such losses on an average slope . . . which further depresses the minus side of the balance.

He then shows that the balance, without considering erosion, can be swung to the plus side by growing sweetclover, utilizing it for pasture and plowing it under, and by adding slightly larger amounts of commercial fertilizer. However, if erosion is considered, contouring and terracing are needed to keep the soil fertility on the plus side.

Mr. Coleman can assemble the complete outfit quickly and move it easily.

What makes the show click?

FRED L. WEBSTER, County Agent, Waldo County, Maine

What Makes the Show Click

■ There is no mystery about how American agriculture turned in 5 years of record production despite dwindling supplies of labor. Many factors contributed to this achievement. Among the most influential are clever labor-saving ideas, methods and devices developed by farm people, and the farm labor-saving shows through which these new practices and tools have been carried to many other farmers. In Maine, 21,613 farmers and homemakers attended 21 of these shows this year. In other States equally impressive records of farm-wide interest have been piled up.

Sound Preparation Counts

What makes a farm labor show click? Well, take a look at one staged on March 7, at Belfast, Maine, a town of 5,000 people.

Twenty-two hundred Waldo County people attended our show. In discovering why so many farm people came to Belfast, an examination of the preparatory work done before the show came to town is revealing. When the Maine Extension Service announced that a caravan of home-made labor-saving equipment would make a State tour and that a show would be held in every county where displays of local exhibits would supplement the State's contribution, a challenge was presented to county agents.

The idea was new. Nothing like it had ever before been tried in Maine. Some folks were skeptical about getting satisfactory results. Since the show was to function through a local committee, it was decided to make the committee a county-wide organization representing all interested in civic and social developments. Cooperation of the grange, school unions, Farm Bureau, Extension Service, civic organizations, and chamber of commerce was asked. Persons who had conducted farm machinery repair schools during the war, and who had aided in building much labor-saving equipment, were invited to help.

Committee members were assigned to find items for local exhibits, organize community groups, develop publicity, get a location for the show, and arrange for transportation of exhibits. For a month before the show, Muriel Beal, home demonstration agent, and Lois Cohoon, 4-H Club agent, worked closely with their groups. We consulted regarding agricultural displays and all of us talked about the coming show at community and county-wide meetings.

The editor of the local weekly newspaper developed full publicity. The secretary of the Belfast Chamber of Commerce, president of Unity Civic Improvement Association, grange lecturers, and school superintendents helped him with news stories. Most everybody in the county, it seems, was some sort of a labor-saving show press agent during the month preceding the exhibit.

During the final week of preparation the daily contributions of the Maine Broadcasting Service and the Maine Agricultural Extension Service in their radio programs were of special value. The "labor-saving" mouse-



County Agent Webster ready for action

trap, some 50 years old, and the "Farmers' Special" train run by the Belfast & Moosehead Lake Railroad were played up in the news. The railroad, operated entirely within Waldo County, had received much national publicity as the "Cracker Barrel Railroad." This train works local freight on its morning run into Belfast. In entertaining the passengers during long stops at stations the day of the show, a Belfast girl played the accordion and sang.

Everyone Takes a Hand

The secretary of the chamber of commerce aroused Belfast's civic spirit. The proprietor of a large poultry dressing plant donated space for the show. Welcoming posters and banners were displayed by stores, and many of them had special "Farm and Home Labor-Saving Day" sales. The high school orchestra gave a concert at the show. The local theater had a special program, and as a grand finale in the evening a basketball game and a dance were held.

There were many excellent exhibits, among them being stable gutter cleaner, poultry house, tip-up trailer for hauling farm machinery, truck-drawn conveyor for loading sweet corn, long hay blower, kitchen cabinet, sewing cabinet, laundry helper, home-made rug loom, and the "labor-saving" mousetrap. More than 100 different articles were on display with 200 lineal feet of 4 by 6 ft. panels containing pictures and charts.

Many New Contacts Made

To sum it all up, the committee did a thorough job of organization and publicity, and obtained outstanding local exhibits. Organizations represented in the committee cooperated perfectly.

In appraising the value of the show, one should not overlook the contacts made with many people who could not have been reached in any other way. They requested more than 2,000 bulletins, leaflets, blueprints, and plans.

Maine people like to see a show, and if it is a good one, they will get to it even if they have to walk. Belfast had a good show. The people came.

This is how it works



1 Prominent Benton County, Ind., hog producers are getting a bit of sound advice about home-made pig brooders from John W. Schwab, Purdue extension hogman, and "dean" of Indiana extension workers, shown at

left. C. W. Lawson, of Boswell, president of the Benton County Fair Association, is in the center, and Arvil M. Smiley, of Fowler, chairman of the Benton County extension committee, at right.

Fun is what you make it

North Dakota leaders learn to start the entertainment ball rolling at recreation institutes.

2 Recognizing the need for recreation in rural areas, the North Dakota Extension Service, under the direction of Pauline Reynolds, rural youth leader, and a recreation committee have set up a program of recreational institutes.

The purpose of these institutes is to build a pool of trained leaders who will go back to their respective communities and help initiate recreation programs geared to local needs. Work will be carried on through 4-H Clubs, church groups, homemakers' clubs, and various farm and community organizations.

The first institute in the series was recently held in Minot, N. Dak., with 75 delegates from 10 northwest counties participating. Young people between the ages of 17 and 30, local leaders, and county agents, gathered

for a 4-day session which included all forms of recreational and leisure-time activities.

Clark Fredrickson, a native North Dakotan and former employee of the National Recreation Association, led the group in a study of all types of recreational activities. He demonstrated games for small groups, progressive and musical games, party planning, song leading, folk dances, skits, and plays. Sources of recreational reference material were emphasized. Every delegate took an active part in the program, as the institute aimed to "train by doing."

The delegates were divided into six groups. In each group a topic was discussed and conclusions presented to the institute. Discussion centered on volunteers, qualifications and hints for leaders, building party programs,

facilities for recreation, and ways in which local groups can carry out their own projects.

Play parties and a rural play day were put on in which plans, refreshments, and decorations were all worked out by the young people. Costuming added to the atmosphere.

Climax of the 4-day affair was a regular old-time minstrel show using institute talent. "Mr. Interlocutor" and "Sambo" smiled broadly from behind burnt-cork make-up, enjoying their own jokes even more than the audience.

No Age Limit

In summing up the institute and discussing plans for follow-up programs, Fredrickson emphasized that recreation is for all folks, and a recreational program must aim to reach every member of the community whether he is a member of an organized group or not. "Furthermore, there's no age limit on recreation. Mom and Dad will enjoy an evening of wholesome fun just as much as the kiddies once they've remembered how to play."

Fredrickson emphasized the ease with which an evening's entertainment may be put on by obtaining the help and enthusiasm of many people. Complicated props, plans, and costumes aren't necessary. In fact, it's more fun without them. Materials on hand, plus a little ingenuity, go a long way toward making a successful recreational program.

Fredrickson believes the old saying that you can judge the intelligence of any group by their ability to entertain themselves. "In these days of gadgets, the tendency is to let the commercial and artificial forms of entertainment destroy our own creative ability. Movies and other forms of passive entertainment all too often replace real recreation in which everyone actively participates."

At the conclusion of the institute all delegates were inspired with a determined zeal to carry back the fun and skills they had learned to their respective communities. Delegates from every county had already formulated plans for follow-up programs. Similar events are also planned for other sections of the State in the near future.

The Housers plan a house

■ "I don't know a thing about reading or using a blueprint."

You've said that yourself perhaps and heard others say it, too.

But if you're planning to build or remodel your home, there's a way you can make your plans without having to worry with hard-to-read blueprints. It's a way you can do with scissors what other people do with a pencil. And the whole family can have a part in the planning as they should, for good house planning is a family job.

It's a kit of "cut-outs" developed to help in farmhouse planning. The kit contains scaled cards to help you get the width and length of your rooms in proportion to their actual size. It contains cut-out furniture and suggestions for arranging it, cut-out stairs, chimneys and fireplaces, windows, doors, cabinets, and closets—all scaled to size to prevent traffic jams.

All a farm family needs to use this kit is some paper, scissors, a pencil, and pins, and a table for the family to gather round and work out their plans.

Various Agencies Worked on Kit

Several United States Department of Agriculture agencies worked together in developing the kit. The Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils and Agricultural Engineering, the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, and the Extension Service all made suggestions as to what should be included in the kit.

Last fall about 20 trial copies of the kit were sent to each State Extension Service. They were distributed to a selected group of agents who were interested in building and this type of work. From this trial kit, the makers wanted to find out if an improved plan for the remodeled home can be worked out by this method.

A group of Mississippi extension agents demonstrated the use of the kit at their annual meeting in Jackson in December, under the direction of S. P. Lyle, of the Federal Extension Service, Washington, D. C. J. T. Copeland, extension agricultural engineer, and Lorraine Ford, home man-

agement specialist, wanted to let the county workers know the kit was available and to learn their reactions to it as a help with the housing problems in Mississippi.

The workers commented so favorably on the skit showing the use of the kit and on the possibilities of the kit as a tool for home planning and remodeling that the same agents were asked to put on the demonstration at the home economics sections of the Southern Agricultural Workers Conference in Biloxi in January.

In this skit Mr. and Mrs. Houser, their two sons and young daughter gathered round the dining room table to plan how they are going to remodel their home. The county agent gave them one of the "cut-out" kits the day before, and they are all eager to see how it works.

The Housers had several remodeling problems they hoped the kit would help them work out. Mrs. Houser wanted a larger living room so she and the young folks will have more room to entertain. Young Dolly Hauser is growing up and needs a room of her own. They have unused attic space that might be made into upstairs rooms for the boys. The family needs more storage space. The kitchen needs modernizing.

Here the Housers are arranging a plan for remodeling their house as they have decided they would like it to be. They used the scaled cut-outs of furniture, cabinets, windows and doors, stairs, closets, chimneys, and fireplaces in the kit to help decide if their revised plan will fit their needs.



With the help of the kit, county extension workers, and a local carpenter the Housers planned how they could remodel their old house into a comfortable, convenient farm home.

The agents who acted as members of the Houser family in the skit are Katherine Staley, home demonstration agent, Lauderdale County; Mary Jane Hall, home demonstration agent, Montgomery County; County Agents J. M. Hough, Marion County; W. E. Stone, Covington County; N. S. Estess, Madison County; and C. C. Stone, Hancock County.

Bulletins Now Available

The cut-outs have now been published in bulletin form as Miscellaneous Publication No. 622, entitled *Your Farmhouse: Cut-outs to Help in Planning*. A companion publication, Miscellaneous Publication 619, *Your Farmhouse: How to Plan Remodeling*, has been prepared jointly by the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics and the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils and Agricultural Engineering. Copies can be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., MP 619 at 15 cents a copy, and MP 622 at 25 cents a copy, with the usual discount of 25 percent for 100 copies or more of each publication.

Farm people like the caravan

■ Michigan farm people apparently like to have new ideas on farming and labor saving brought to their doorstep.

Rural Progress Caravans sponsored by the Extension Service toured the State during January, February, and March of both 1946 and 1947 and were visited by 150,000 farm people.

With enrollment at Michigan State College more than doubled over pre-war days, holding the annual "Farmers' Week" in early February was impossible. There were no rooms for meetings, no places for displays; and feeding and housing of thousands of visitors daily was out of the question.

As a substitute, extension administrative officials decided to "carry the mountain to Mahomet" and take the latest teachings to the people. County extension staffs arranged for buildings large enough to display exhibits and models.

The farm labor office of the Extension Service sponsored the first caravan during the first 3 months of 1946. The schedule included 60 full-day showings in each of the counties in the Lower Peninsula. Labor saving was the theme, and county agricultural agents in each county arranged for farmers—and farm women, too—to bring in their own labor-saving ideas. George Amundson, extension agricultural engineer, managed the caravan.

The 1946 labor-saving show brought out 92,000 people to 60 showings.

The 1947 caravan, managed by J. G. Hays, emergency farm labor assistant, continued with labor-saving ideas but stressed farm and home planning and building. Roads blocked by heavy snowfall during much of the 3-month period limited attendance to 64,333 for the 54 showings in 1947. Four shows were canceled, due to a late March blizzard.

Direct contact with 64,000 farm people during the winter months when Michigan farmers were making plans for spring operations was not the only result. A planned program of news stories and pictures to newspapers, radio broadcasts and programs, and feature articles in farm periodicals resulted in people learn-

ing much more about the Extension Service and farm labor program.

Clippings show that space in Michigan newspapers alone amounted to an equivalent of a 70-page, 8-column newspaper. Most of the larger newspapers in the State, including 2 of Detroit's metropolitan papers, carried picture spreads of people visiting the caravan and specialists "in action" explaining the exhibits.

Bulletins were not distributed, but blanks were provided for ordering bulletins through county extension offices. An average of one bulletin per visitor was ordered.

An average of 10 specialists were with the caravan each day to answer questions and discuss exhibits and models. This direct contact with farm people made it possible for the specialists to find out what problems farmers wanted answered. This

knowledge, it is believed, will help specialists in moulding a program that will better fit the needs and desires of the farm people.

Michigan Extension Service and farm labor officials are convinced that Michigan people like the caravan idea.

■ Organization of a 53-family county balanced farming association, the first in Kansas, has been completed in Wabaunsee County. James Nielson, of Marysville, associate county agent, who will work directly with the association members, began work there February 10.

Financing of the county project is on a 50-50 basis, the members of the association paying one-half and the Extension Service one-half of the salary of the associate agent and other expenses.

Nielson, the new associate agent, will correlate his work with that of the county agricultural agent, the home demonstration agent, and the extension specialists at the college.

Home building to reach record high

■ About 1 Illinois family in 10 expects to build a house within the next 3 to 5 years, estimates Deane G. Carter and Keith Hinchcliff, agricultural engineers, College of Agriculture, University of Illinois. Those who plan to remodel—about 1 family in 5—want to add more space or to rearrange present space to better advantage.

A better kitchen, new bathroom, central heating, and house insulation have top priorities among farm families. These four changes make up more than one-half the 1,100 improvements planned for or completed recently by 420 Illinois farm families.

In spite of wartime limitations, farmers made rapid progress in repairing, remodeling, and equipping their homes. During the war most attention was given to changes which would save labor, conserve fuel, or maintain houses in livable condition. Many water systems were installed and houses painted and insulated.

Now the trend is toward better comfort, more convenience, and farm-

houses which are both attractive and durable. Among the improvements wanted are such things as water heaters, automatic furnace operation, basement remodeling, and refinished or new floors. Although utility or work rooms, closet space, and electric service are considered basic farmhouse needs, they are being given less attention now. Electricity is available to a majority of Illinois farms, which makes it possible to modernize the kitchen and install plumbing and automatic heating systems.

Mr. Carter and Mr. Hinchcliff base their predictions on reports from 220 families who visited the University of Illinois during Farm and Home Week last January and from 200 families who were interviewed at Extension Service meetings throughout the State. "It may be that these groups are planning more than average home improvements," say the engineers. "On the other hand, housing needs are much the same throughout the State, and this brief survey is a good indication of the trend."



Flashes FROM SCIENCE FRONTIERS

A few hints of what's in the offing as a result of scientific research in the U. S. Department of Agriculture that may be of interest to extension workers, as seen by Marion Julia Drown, Agricultural Research Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Eleven New Pigments Found in Cottonseed

■ Eleven new pigments have been discovered in cottonseed, which was believed to contain only one. Certain toxic properties of cottonseed that have always been attributed to that one—gossypol—may turn out to be due to some of these other pigments. It is plain now that the blue-black and red-black discoloration observed in cottonseed meats and oils is caused by some of the 11 rather than by the light-yellow gossypol. Three of the new pigments have been isolated and are purple, blue, and orange.

Scientists of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry's Southern Laboratory studying the chemistry of cottonseed found that the pigments occur in glands which are separated by their own walls from the surrounding tissue. The pigment glands are less dense than any other constituent of cottonseed, and it was found that they are not affected by certain solvent materials. Putting these facts together, the chemists have devised a solvent-extraction method for separating cottonseed meats into three parts—oil, pigment glands, and meal. The glands rise to the top of a mixture of solvent and oil, where they can be skimmed off, and the meal sinks to the bottom, making separation easy. The pigment-free meal and oil resulting from this process are lighter in color and purer than these products have ever been before.

The depigmented meal promises to broaden the use of cottonseed, especially as a source of industrial protein and as feed for chickens and swine. The process is not yet quite ready for commercial application.

Slow-Acting Nitrogen Fertilizer Lasts Longer

■ A nitrogen fertilizer that is slow acting and feeds crops over a longer period has been developed at the Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md. Called Uraform because it is a combination of urea and formaldehyde, it has proved superior to natural nitrogen fertilizers in greenhouse and laboratory tests. It supplies nitrogen at a uniform rate over a long growing period. It does not leach out of the soil easily. For corn, potatoes, and tobacco especially it offers promise because of its delayed action, as these crops usually require additional fertilizer during the growing season. Uraform should also be valuable for fertilizing lawns and pastures. It can be used in mixed fertilizer as well as alone, and it does not absorb moisture.

Unfortunately both urea and formaldehyde are scarce at present, so Uraform will not be generally available until these chemicals can be obtained in larger amounts. It has been produced so far only on a laboratory scale.

A Protective Food Film You Can Eat

■ A protective coating for meat and other food products has been developed at the Western Regional Research Laboratory from citrus peel, apple pomace, and other fruit and vegetable waste products. The soluble pectinate material can be made by a simple method that could easily be adapted to commercial use.

The pectin from waste fruit products is treated chemically so that when heated to 158° F. and then cooled to 104°, it forms a gel or film. The product to be coated is dipped into the solution for about 3 seconds, and the coating is dried in a current

of warm air for half an hour. Then the product is stored in the usual way, protected by a strong film.

The film dissolves when the product it covers is boiled but not when it is fried or roasted. As it is tender and edible, however, it can be left on and eaten.

The pectinate film has many potential uses and provides a way of utilizing fruit and vegetable wastes.

How Atomic Energy Can Help the Farmer

■ Farmers are not going to feed radioactive fodder to their cows to give them atomic energy, but they may expect to profit from the use of radioactive atoms in agricultural research.

Scientists now have a way of tracing the movement of minerals through plants and even animals. Artificial radioactive atoms were first produced in 1934 in the cyclotron, or atom-smasher, but the method was so expensive that only well-endowed research organizations could obtain them. Now radio isotopes, as such atoms are called, are being produced by the Atomic Energy Commission at Oak Ridge, Tenn., at a cost related to the former cost in the ratio of 50 to 1 million.

By the tracer technique a small quantity of radioactive phosphorus or other element is introduced into the soil, and its uptake by plants can be traced by the radiations the treated atoms give off. Questions as to the course of mineral nutrients through the plant and the location where they perform their functions may finally receive answers. The tracer technique is based on the detection by a sensitive instrument of the presence of the isotopes.

Uses for this technique may be found in other fields of agricultural research. In the study of soils and fertilizers, in entomology, animal nutrition, plant pathology, and photosynthesis, scientists visualize ways in which the new tool can be helpful. Its use should greatly accelerate our scientific progress.

Improved industrial processes and medical techniques are also expected to result from the availability of radioactive atoms. Atomic energy is like fire—a force powerful for destruction, but, if properly handled, with infinite possibilities for good.



Have you read

THE HOME BUILDERS. Warren Hastings Miller. 296 pp. The John C. Winston Company. Philadelphia, Pa., and Toronto, Canada. 1946.

■ A genuine tribute to 4-H Club work as an educational and character-building experience for growing boys is implied in every page of a new book, *The Home-Builders*, by Warren Hastings Miller.

The book is a success story built around the experiences of a 16-year-old city boy, who, with his father, moves out to the family ancestral farm to rebuild the house and to nurse the run-down soil back to good tilth and productiveness. The learn-by-doing educational process, plus an easy and fast-moving style, is the foundation for the book's wholesome but entertaining context. Most of the book's action takes place on "Hawk Mountain" in eastern Pennsylvania, overlooking the Delaware River.

Extension workers might well place this book at the top of their list for recommended reading by teen-age youth. In addition to its wholesome philosophy, the book gives a good background thread of 4-H program-planning ideas. Also, the numerous livestock and horticultural activities of "Seth Harding" and his father appear to be based on sound, recommended practices. There are frequent references to the influence of extension agents. 4-H Club experiences are the effective springboard for a final happy ending.—*E. W. Aiton, Field Agent, Eastern States.*

WINDOWS OPEN TO THE WORLD. A Handbook of World Fellowship Projects. Dorothy Gladys Spicer. 127 pp. The Woman's Press, 600 Lexington Avenue, New York 22, N. Y.

■ The central theme of this little book is the fostering of world-wide fellowship through understand-

ing. Groups interested in learning more about the lives, customs, and traditions of people in other nations will find ideas here for a variety of club and community activities.

The author has given very specific directions for parties and projects designed to encourage closer fellowship between differing racial, religious, and nationality groups. One section entitled "Parties Are Fun!" starts off with detailed directions for a Greek New Year's party and ends with plans for a Christmas party. Suggested menus including recipes for strange dishes are given, as well as directions for decorations and games or other entertainment features.

Other sections deal with dramatizing folk material, creating festivals, and nationality projects for community programs.

Miss Spicer has included a table of festival dates that would be helpful in developing a calendar of events for any community of mixed nationalities. There is also a list of organizations that are sponsoring special overseas projects, such as American Friends Service Committee. Articles needed and directions for sending are included.

Any group, adult or youth, interested in acquiring knowledge of other lands will find this a handy reference book.—*Eunice L. Heywood, Field Agent, Central States.*

ELEMENTS OF SOIL CONSERVATION. Hugh Hammond Bennett. 406 pp. McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York, N. Y., 1947.

■ This new book by the chief of the Soil Conservation Service was prepared as a text for high school and college students. It presents a vivid picture of the soil-erosion problem in the United States and explains the causes, effects, and significance of erosion. It gives a clear and up-to-date picture of what is being done in

this country in soil and water conservation, including a discussion of the work of soil conservation districts and the assistance in soil and water conservation given to farmers by various government agencies. Although this book is written in relatively simple language that can readily be understood by high school students of agriculture and undergraduate college students, it contains basic information on problems and their solution that would be of interest and benefit to county agents.

The basic principles of conservation farming are explained, and all important and proved conservation practices are fully discussed. It also provides a vast amount of technical information and data in form that is easy to use and language that is readily understood. All the data, including the discussion of techniques, are thoroughly up to date; and very little of the content of this text—particularly the technical information—has been presented in other texts.

The book also contains a helpful list of correlated visual aids—motion pictures and film strips.—*W. R. Tischer, Extension—S. C. S. Conservationist.*

AUDIO-VISUAL METHODS IN TEACHING. Edgar Dale. 546 pp. The Dryden Press, New York, N. Y.

■ The last word in a textbook on audio-visual methods in teaching has just recently been released by the Dryden Press, 386 Fourth Avenue, New York, N. Y., the author of the book being Edgar Dale, professor of education, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

The text is divided into three major parts: Part I. Theory of Audio-Visual Materials; Part II. Audio-Visual Teaching Materials; Part III-A. Audio-Visual Methods Applied in the Classroom; and Part III-B. Audio-Visual Methods Applied in the School System.

We believe this text to be the most complete and up-to-date treatise on the subject, and it should prove to be a valuable reference guide to those wishing to use that most modern of all teaching media, visual aids.—*George C. Pace, Specialist in Visual Instruction.*

Among Ourselves



■ **GEORGE A. NELSON**, who retired as county agent of Columbia County, Oreg., April 1, to become county agent at large, achieved the longest period of county agent work of any man in Oregon. For approximately 31½ years, he has served as a county agent in Washington and Oregon—with almost 24 years of service in one Oregon county.

Nelson was the first graduate of Oregon State College to be appointed as a county agent, entering this work in November 1912—about 18 months before the Smith-Lever Act went into effect. He was stationed in Wahkiakum County, Wash., with headquarters at Cathlamet, for 4½ years and then was transferred to Pacific County, Wash., with headquarters at South Bend. In March 1920, he left county agent work to take up operation of a dairy farm at Gray's River, Wash. In late 1922, he returned to the educational field, taking employment with the farm management department at Oregon State College. On May 2, 1923, he was appointed county agent of Columbia County, the position he has held continuously since that date.

Nelson was born in Sonora, Calif., in 1882 and was reared on a home-

stead in Washington County, Oreg., part of which he helped to clear from timber. He graduated from Oregon State College in 1909 and served as foreman of the 100-cow dairy at the Oregon State Hospital for the following year. In 1911 and early 1912, he was deputy State dairy and food commissioner at Portland. He was the first county agent appointed in the State of Washington and one of the first in the Northwest.

Pasture improvement and the establishment of grass on cut-over lands has been one of Nelson's major projects in Columbia County. In 1924, Columbia County had 417 sheep and 11,400 cattle. In 1944, the county had 2,000 ewes and 18,000 cattle. He also has encouraged reforestation and development of good farm woodlot management. Second-growth timber now is becoming an important resource of the county.

■ **O. T. NORRIS**, a volunteer leader for England's Young Farmers Clubs, recently called at the office to ask some questions about 4-H Club work. He is vice chairman of the National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs of England and Wales and president

of his county federation of East Sussex. He states the county federation had about 1,000 members. He farms 500 acres in East Sussex and was spending about 3 weeks in this country.

■ **TINA STEWART**, district home demonstration agent in Texas, was killed almost instantly by a freight train in College Station, Tex., April 8. Miss Stewart, a native of Texas, had been in the Extension Service for 11 years, serving as home demonstration agent for Bell County until 1946, with a 4 months' interlude as emergency State war food assistant in 1944. She became assistant district agent May 1, 1946 and district agent September 1.

■ **ROLLYN WINTERS**, a former club agent in New Jersey, has been appointed associate State Club leader. In addition to his 4-H activities, Mr. Winters will be in charge of the program for older youth so successfully started by Louis Gombosi who recently resigned.

■ **MRS. WINNIFRED GILLEN** is the new assistant State 4-H Club leader in Oregon. She has been home demonstration agent in Klamath County, Oreg., since 1938.

Mrs. Gillen is a home economics graduate of Iowa State College, with a master's degree in home management from that institution. Her varied background of experience includes 3 years of teaching home economics in high schools and 2 years as hostess at the Men's Grill at Marshall Field's in Chicago where she also assisted with menu planning for the several tea rooms of that large store. While taking graduate work at Iowa State College she was in charge of one of the home management houses of that institution.

■ **RANDOLPH H. THOMPSON**, well-known lecturer of the Pennsylvania Game Commission for more than 14 years, has been appointed Pennsylvania extension specialist in wildlife management.

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